

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

*Sub 17*  
1-24. (Canceled)

1 25. (currently amended) A method of making a circular  
2 blade for cutting a moving material web, the blade having a steel  
3 cutting edge, the method comprising the step of:  
4 coating a surface of the cutting edge by means of plasma  
5 with foreign ions to a depth between 50  $\mu\text{m}$  and 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

*2*  
1 26. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the depth is between 100  $\mu\text{m}$  and 200  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1 27. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25, further comprising the step of  
3 imparting to the cutting edge a hardness of 800 HV to  
4 1300 HV without impairing its ductility.

1 28. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 27 wherein the hardness is between 900 HV and 1200  
3 HV.

1 29. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein nat least the cutting edge is formed of  
3 a heat-treated steel, a high-speed steel or a tool steel.

1 30. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the entire blade is formed of a heat-  
3 treated steel, a high-speed steel, or a tool steel.

1 31. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 25 wherein the foreign ions are of nitrogen,  
3 carbon, molybdenum, tungsten, and/or molybdenum.

1 32. (previously presented) The blade making method  
2 defined in claim 31 wherein a portion of the molybdenum or tungsten  
3 ions in the foreign ions is greater than a portion of titanium  
4 ions.